

Mr. Halpin

STATEMENT OF HENRY B. CARPENDER
Made to Messrs. Pfeiffer, Studer and Palzer on
Tuesday, September 28, 1926 put in Narrative Form.

I live in the next block to Mrs. Hall and am her first cousin. Her mother and my father were brother and sister. I had not seen either Mr. or Mrs. Hall all summer unless I went to early church in June or July when I would have seen Mr. Hall conduct the service. I have never represented either Mr. or Mrs. Hall in a business way though I once bought a couple of bonds for the investment of some church funds which we delivered to Mr. Hall through the mail.

I knew nothing of the relations between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills and had never heard them talked about. Neither had I ever heard any gossip about Mrs. Mills in connection with anyone else. I may have known Mrs. Mills by sight.

On Wednesday, the 13th, Mrs. Carpenter made an engagement for us to dine with J. K. Rice, Jr. and his wife on the night of the 14th. I went to New York as usual on Thursday the 14th and think I came out on the train due in New Brunswick about 5.30 which they call the Rocky Hill train. Mrs. Carpenter met me in the only car which we owned at that time, a Buick roadster, which is an open car, and we drove to our home, where I changed my clothes. I put on white trousers, white buck skin shoes, and a light greenish gray sort of a sports coat with pleats in the back and a black band on the arm. The Rices had dinner at 7 and we left home about ten minutes of 7. I did not have any telephone call from Mrs. Hall or any member of my family in New York on Thursday and do not recall any telephone talks with anyone between the time I got home from New York and the time we went to the Rices.

We reached the Rices about 7 and saw Mr. Rice, Mrs. Rice, their son

Kearney, who was 14 then, and one of the Rice daughters. The waitress was a Mrs. Ballou. Mrs. Wiflin, a neighbor of the Rices, who lived across the street, says she saw us go there that night.

After dinner we sat out on the porch and Mr. Rice and I talked business at some length. It was a warm evening. During the evening birthdays were discussed and the fact was mentioned that the next day was Mrs. Carpenter's birthday. I think we had some light talk about how old we were getting and so forth. Also Mr. and Mrs. Rice spoke about the funeral the next day of a Mr. Grier, a relative of Mrs. Rice's. This funeral was to be at Rye. The rest of the evening we spent in light talk. We stayed until about 10.30 and then went directly home and to bed. As we left the porch the Rices followed us down and after we got to the car we discussed cars, including Buicks, for sometime. We must have talked by the car for fifteen or twenty minutes. The clock struck ten o'clock sometime before we went out to the car. I don't remember if we continued the conversation after we got into the car.

I did not look at a clock when we got home. We put the car away and went into the house and I do not recall that we did much of anything except get ready to go to bed. We did not stop downtown on the way home. We went across the Albany Street Bridge to George Street and right straight out Avenue home. We did not receive or send any telephone messages while at the Rices. I remember that when I set the alarm clock before I went to bed it was between 11.15 and 11.20. It usually lost a little time every day and I had to set it every night from my own watch. The Rice children did not go to bed until after we left. No one telephoned us when we got home. I do not remember meeting anyone on the way to the Rices or on the way home.

Friday I went to New York and on the floor of the Stock Exchange as usual. I think I went in on the 7.55 and got back about 5.30. I do not remember any telephone messages from anyone in New Brunswick and I am sure I had none from Mrs. Hall. Mrs. Carpender met me at the train around 5.30 and we went home, changed our clothes, and went up to Sydney Carpender's for dinner. It was my wife's birthday. Sydney and Mrs. Carpender were there and someone else. I remember a birthday cake being brought in which was a surprise and we were there until sometime after ten o'clock and then went directly home and to bed. I should say we stayed at Sydney's until nearly 11 and think we went to bed between 11.20 and 11.30. We didn't have any telephone calls that evening.

Saturday morning I went to town as usual, I think on the 7.55 train, attended to my business as usual, and took the train which arrived in New Brunswick at about 1.30. Mrs. Carpender met me at the train and told me of Dr. Hall's death. She also told me that Mrs. Mills was found with him. That did not mean a thing in the world to me except that I knew she was a member of the church. We got home, had lunch, and after lunch both of us went over to see Mrs. Hall. I think we went a little after 2. There were only about six or seven people there. The ones I remember are my aunt, Mrs. Charles Carpender, and Teddy and Elovine Carpender. I don't remember what Mrs. Hall said to me. I only talked to Mrs. Hall a little because other people were talking to her. She seemed to be very much broken up and cried a little but she was very brave, I will say that. While we were there Jim Mills came in. The person I talked to the most was Teddy Carpender who told me of going out in the morning and identifying the body. I only stayed about twenty minutes. I did not see Mills who went over in the other room across the hall with Mrs. Hall. I did not hear her conversation with him and don't think he was there more than about ten or fifteen minutes. His being announced did not cause any excitement.

When we left the Halls we went home and spent the afternoon there.

I worked in the garden. Saturday night we had dinner at home and in the evening we went up to Mrs. Neilson's, Mrs. Carpender's mother, and spent the evening, leaving there about ten o'clock. We did not have any telephone calls while we were there. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Carpender, my brother and Mrs. Carpender's sister, were staying at Mrs. Neilson's.

Sunday we had breakfast about 8.30 or quarter of 9 and then Mrs. Carpender and I went down to Spring Lake in our car. When we got there we went to Mrs. Johnson's boarding house, where Dr. and Mrs. Runyon and the children were staying. I should say we left home at approximately 9.30 and got down there by 11. We went to Mrs. Johnson's, met the Runyons, and took a walk down the boardwalk to the lower pavilion, which is opposite the Monmouth House. The Runyon's were with us all the time. We watched the bathing, then walked home again and had lunch at Mrs. Johnson's about 1.30. After lunch we took all the papers and went down on the beach with the children and stayed there for a long time reading the papers and talking. Then Sheldon Parsons, who is a member of the Stock Exchange, an old resident of Spring Lake, an old friend of the Neilson family, and a great friend of mine, joined us and a little after 4 Parsons asked us to go down to his house and have cocktails. We went down there, saw his mother and his aunt, Miss Miles, had the cocktails, and were there, I should say, nearly an hour. We left around 5.20 and drove right to New Brunswick, going directly to Sydney Carpender's, where we were to have Sunday night's supper. I think we stayed there until about 9 o'clock and then we got in the car again and went towards home, stopping at Mrs. Hall's for a few minutes just to see how she was. I don't remember who was there and think we only stayed about ten minutes.

I never at any time, before or after September 14, removed any papers or anything else from Mrs. Hall's house and never spoke to Mrs. Minnie Clark with reference to removing any papers. I only knew Mrs. Minnie Clark very casually

and never met her at Mrs. Hall's house after September 14.

The funeral was on Monday. I had nothing to do with the arrangements and think that Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Carpender did most of that. There were a few short prayers at the house with Mrs. Hall present and then we went down to the church of St. John the Evangelist. After that we got into automobiles and went to Greenwood Cemetery on Long Island outside of Brooklyn. It is the only time I was ever in that cemetery. I think there were about half a dozen cars. Mrs. Carpender did not go to the cemetery. I think Willie Stevens, Mr. Paul Bonner and his mother, Mrs. Bonner, were in the car with Mrs. Hall. After we left the cemetery I was driven to the nearest subway station and took the subway to the office. I don't think I got there until about three o'clock.

I have never done any business for William Stevens and have not been intimate with him. I saw him very seldom. I don't recall seeing him all during the summer of 1922. I had not seen Henry Stevens for a long, long time. It may have been two years or more. I think the last time I saw him was when he was running clay pigeon traps at the end of the Million Dollar Pier at Atlantic City, when I shot a few clay pigeons on the end of the Pier.

I think I once exchanged some stock of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis into some bonds for Henry during a reorganization of that Company. I never borrowed or drove any of the cars owned by the Halls in September, 1922. On the night of September 14 I did not see or get any message from either Mr. or Mrs. Hall or anyone else.

I knew Jimmy Mills. The next meeting of the Vestry after September 14 was the Tuesday or Wednesday night after the funeral. After the meeting we decided that it would be a respectful and decent thing to do to go down and call on Mills and express our sympathy and six or seven of us went down there. I am not sure just who went except that I know Gersline went and

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and Mr. Bartholomew and I think a man named Huebner. The door was opened by Henry Mills, the brother of James Mills. He said that James Mills was out and started to tell us that his family had evidently known of the affair between Mr. Halland Mrs. Mills because he said that his mother, and I think he said some other member of the family, had remonstrated with Mrs. Mills about it and he said "Of course Eleanor was a hard girl to handle; she had an awful temper and all she did was get mad and they never could do anything with her."

No one in the family calls me Henry and I am always known as Harry. I can't think of anyone in the family or among my friends who calls me Henry. If anyone called me Henry I would not even turn around.

I never saw Jane Gibson until the Somerville hearing in August, of this year. I was never questioned by the authorities in 1922 except that one morning as Mrs. Capmeder and I were starting for the train Ferd David came up in his car with someone with him and said he would like to have a look at my cars. I said "Here it is." And he said "Well, I have been informed that you have two or three". That's all there was to it and we went on to the train. This conversation took place out on the curb and I did not see any woman around. It was not Totten who was with him. It was sort of a round faced man as I remember it.

In 1922 I wrote a letter to the Grand Jury saying I was ready to appear. Mr. Pfeiffer has a copy of that letter which states that we left Mr. Rice's at 10.30.

I know nothing about the identification of me by Mrs. Gibson except what I saw in the papers, and what Di Martini told me. Di Martini said I was pointed out as I got out of a car in New Brunswick at the railroad station.

We had an electric torch but we did not carry it around in our pockets or in the car.

In 1922 I had a .38 calibre automatic and an old .32 calibre rim fire that belonged to Mr. Neilson, Mrs. Carpenter's father. At his death Mrs. Neilson gave that gun to me, and I have never touched it since. It is still in my drawer at home.

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